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## Changes to the 2009 Report Card

- **Beginning this year, there will be a different grade scale used.** Scores considered to be an “A” or proficient in years past may now be Bs or Cs. These changes do not reflect a loss of learning but a change in the scale.
- **There will be no ability to compare previous years for Value Added data and Achievement data.** Schools and parents should compare their scores to the state average to understand how well their students are performing.
- **Only 2009 data will be reported and no trend data will be available.** In 2010 and each year afterwards you will be able to compare grades on the Report Card to the 2009 year.

### Background:

In 2007, the Tennessee Department of Education launched the Tennessee Diploma Project (TDP). The more rigorous curriculum and graduation requirements the TDP calls for became effective this year. In order for the TDP to be effective, we are responsible for making sure that our annual tests reflect properly that our students are prepared. This is why the Tennessee Department of Education has made significant changes to the way we calculate all grades on the 2009 Report Card – both for Achievement and for the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) reports. Previously, all grades on the Report Card were based on 1998 achievement levels. These changes reflect the current status of education attainment and student progress in the state.

### Timeline:

- In 2003, Tennessee set the state growth standards for each subject based on the progress rate of students in 1998. Since that time, all TCAP Criterion Reference Test (CRT) scale scores have been converted into state Normal Curve Equivalents (NCEs) consistent with the way calculations were performed in the base year of 1998.
- Since 2003, many districts and schools have regularly met the state’s growth standard. Calculation based on 1998 data show current levels Tennessee students would be considered passing state tests in all subjects and all grades.
- In 2009-2010, the Tennessee Department of Education is implementing new curriculum, assessment standards and graduation requirements. To demonstrate student progress towards these higher expectations, it was necessary to revise the formula used for grades on the Report Card.
- This year, the Tennessee Department of Education reset the growth standard to reflect the average student performance in 2009 providing a fixed transition point prior to the implementation of standards and assessments.